



TAG

# SAFETY ALERT

## Skidder Brake Failure

### Description of the Event:

Skidder was starting up the skid trail at the start of shift when it abruptly stalled and began to slowly roll backwards. The braking systems failed and the operator was unable to restart, slow, or stop the machine. On a gentle slope the machine nearly stopped allowing the operator to exit the machine.

The skidder continued to roll down the mountain approx. 800m through an old cutblock before coming to a stop. The machine stayed on its wheels.

It was discovered that the machine ran out of fuel, likely stolen overnight. Inspection identified the park brake cable was not in working order.



### Contributing Factors

- Park brake system not tested
- Brake system not adequately maintained
- Maintenance logbook out of date
- Fuel had been stolen out of machine overnight

### Suggested Actions

- Complete pre-trip inspection/test of service and park brakes.
- Routinely inspect park brake wear and adjustment (pads, caliper, rotor, cables).
- Test to see if the service brake accumulator is functioning at pre-trip. The accumulator will allow for a few brake applications with the engine off.
- Have park brake adjusted after any hard braking applications/abuse.
- Do not use park brake as a service brake to routinely stop machine.
- Ensure mechanical inspections and maintenance are completed and documented.
- Check fuel level at the start of each shift.
- Install locking fuel caps, or other means to prevent theft/vandalism.



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